

fnb-l, the internet mailing list for Food Not Bombs

February 15 - March 13, 1996

Issue #1

Hello. This is a print-out of messages from the Food Not Bombs Internet mailing list (fnb-l@netcom.com). An email list is like a regular mailing list some group or individual maintains in order to do mass mailings, except that *anybody* who is subscribed to an email list can send mail-outs to *everybody* else on the list. If you have email, you can subscribe to the Food Not Bombs list by sending an email message to the automated account *owner-fnb-l@netcom.com* with the word "subscribe" on a blank line in the message. You will then receive all the messages anyone sends to fnb-l in your personal email box.

If you don't have email, you can read this print-out. Because not everybody likes computers or can afford to use one, I am planning on publishing these hard copy versions every month and distributing them as widely as possible. East Bay Food Not Bombs (the FNB group I'm a part of) has agreed to pay the printing and mailing costs for the first few months, with the expectation that if the project is worthwhile (meaning if people want to see it continue), it will pay for itself through donations/subscriptions. So if you want me to send you a copy each month, mail a few dollars to: **Email Project/East Bay Food Not Bombs, 3124 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705**. If you can't afford it, don't worry. If you can afford more, extra donations will go to pay for those who can't. Also, make your own copies and give them away for free!

All the messages here are from fnb-l. The author's email name and address, date, and subject heading are printed in bold-face at the beginning of each message, and except for an occasional subject clarification which I put in brackets [], they are the same as in the original post. None of these messages have been edited in any way. All typos belong to the original author. If you see asterisks (*) or underscores (_) around certain words, that's the email way of indicating **bold** or underline. Also, the messages included here are only the ones that directly relate to Food Not Bombs. A lot of people post messages to fnb-l about broader political issues and there is simply not enough room to print them all here.

Thanks, Emanuel

Subject: How do you do it?

From: "John Statler" <statler@mind.net>

Date: Thu, 15 Feb 1996

We are planning a "Homeless Day in the Park II" in middle May. This is our second event and we hope a very good one, since we have the difficulties of the last one to build on.

Last year we had twenty ideas and tried to do all of them. This year we are doing three very well, and if the other ideas materialize that's just grand. The three are: entertainment, information, and food.

I am asking about the food part.

Do you have suggested recipes? What do you use for heat? Propane power? What size? What do you use for pots and pans? What do you use for plates and utensils?

Last year we had about 250 people pass through during the day. We expect a larger number this year. How many of these do you think might eat?

Last year we had lots of bread, peanut butter, jam. Some fruit but not much. This year we want something hot.

We now have a member of our Shelter Development Committee who is experienced in mass food preparation. He is willing to head the food committee. Do you have any suggestions for him? He has worked in gourmet and military style service for 18 years.

I would like to see if this event couldn't

spur the creation of a FNB in the Medford/Ashland Area. We are on I5 just north of the California Border.

Would anyone from Arcata or Eugene be interested in coming down to help prepare for the day or during the day?

Thank you for all your posts, I have been lurking for quite awhile. Now I could use your help. I haven't seen the FNB WWW site but I'll try to get there in the new few weeks.

Meantime, help if you can. And thanks.

John Statler 1120 Niantic St. Medford, OR 97501 541-770-5524 statler@mind.net

Subject: Re: How do you do it?

Date: Fri, 16 Feb 1996

From: "C.T. BUTLER" <ctbutler@biddeford.com>

Dear John,

My name is C.T. Butler. I co-authored the FNB Handbook and co-founded FNB= 16 years ago. I am a professional vegetarian chef. Here are my ideas:

Do you have suggested recipes?

Have you seen the FNB Handbook? In the middle section called Recipes, it contains 30 recipes of vegan food for servings of 100 people. These recipes were specifically created by me to be cheap, quick, relatively easy to prepare, and from ingredients we would often recover/recycle, which was part of our

mission. If you don't have the book, you can get one from me or I can e-mail you just the recipes.

What do you use for heat?

I suppose you mean for an outdoor kitchen set-up. Propane is best, from my experience. A two burner camp stove from Coleman costs about \$40 - \$60 and will give you years of service. Disposable propane canisters cost about \$3 and last 2 - 3 hours. Ideally, you could get a refillable canister, but they are expensive but even the small ones, when filled, last a day or two.

What do you use for pots and pans?

Depends upon if you expect to get busted or not. Generally, we use borrowed pots from other groups such as churches or shelters or from members of the group. Eventually, most groups buy their own stainless steel pots; however, they run about \$100 each for a new 16 qt. or larger pot. Before you buy new, check out the used restaurant equipment supply stores in the nearest big city and/or yard sales where you might pick up pots at a fraction of the cost. Beware of military-style heavy-duty aluminum pots. Cheap but unhealthy, IMO. If you expect to be hassled by the police and possibly have your stuff taken away, use plastic 5 gallon buckets which can usually be gotten from your local coop or health food store for free. Stuff like tofu, molasses, nut butters, come in these and usually the stores just throw them out. Obviously, you cook the food in pots and

then just before you leave for the serving site, transfer the food into the plastic buckets.

What do you use for plates and utensils?

Unfortunately, the easiest and most sanitary is paper hot cups and plates and plastic forks and spoons. These can often be gotten for free in larger cities by going to the paper products supply warehouses and asking for *seconds* or stuff they cannot sell because it is damaged in some way or the wrong color or discontinued stock or whatever. They might even give you an outright donation if you ask them and tell them what you are doing. Ideally, if you can go to alot of yard sales, you can pick-up a large number of flatware very cheaply and every so often, you will find hard plastic cups and plates very cheap. Some groups use these, collect them after the meal, and wash them. Some will disappear each meal, but the idea is to have a huge supply without spending much money. AND, you also have the additional task of washing all those dishes.

Last year we had about 250 people pass through during the day. We expect a larger number this year. How many of these do you think might eat?

Your guess is as good as mine, perhaps better since you are there. If your question is about what quantity of food for X number of people, check the book or give me a call at 1.800.569.4054.

Last year we had lots of bread, peanut butter, jam. Some fruit but not much. This year we want something hot.

We now have a member of our Shelter Development Committee who is experienced in mass food preparation. He is willing to head the food committee. Do you have any suggestions for him? He has worked in gourmet and military style service for 18 years.

Forget everything you ever learned. This is not gourmet *although the food can and should taste good* and it is traditionally, and for political and health reasons, strictly vegetarian. That means no meat, dairy, eggs, butter, fish, sugar, i.e., NO ANIMAL PRODUCTS OR BYPRODUCTS. If you need specific information about a particular recipe or substitution, please call me at 1.800.569.4054.

I would like to see if this event couldn't spur the creation of a FNB in the Medford/Ashland Area.

Great idea! Be sure to have flyers announcing that fact with a contact name and number; and ideally, a PO Box address and date/time/place of your next/first meeting. This flyer can be copied right out of the book; just add your specific information.

We are on I5 just north of the California Border. Would anyone from Arcata or Eugene be interested in coming down to help prepare for the day or during the day?

Contact them directly. If you need contact info. call Keith in San Francisco at 1.800.884.1136.

Good Luck and let me/us know how it

goes. If you do get a local FNB rolling in Medford/Ashland, be sure to let Keith know your contact info. Keith also is the contact for the FNB Menu, our many-to-many national newsletter, and he has a supply of FNB merchandise such as buttons, stickers, t-shirts, banners, literature, etc.

Peace, C.T.

Subject: PITTSBURGH HOMELESS/ RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Date: Mon, 19 Feb 1996

From: "vincent scotti eirene/""

<notowar@telarama.lm.com>

Hello dear food not bombers thought you'd be interested in the following. any ideas, support, questions are welcomed...vincent

Sunday school teens' charitable efforts thwarted by Pittsburgh authorities by Cathy Hickling and Pat Cloonan

On February 4, a bitter cold Sunday in Pittsburgh, some 20 Sunday School students and several adults did something their suburban church has done for six years: take food and blankets to the homeless in Market Square downtown.

"We're trying to help our young people engage in some Christian witness," the Rev. Andrew Harvey, pastor of Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, said, "and to help them to become sensitive to the varied issues that are present in our society."

For Mt. Lebanon, whose outreach also includes financial and volunteer help to homeless shelters, it was a bid to reach some of the homeless who fall through the cracks. This year, however, it was different. After about an hour, a Pittsburgh police officer came along, and sent the church group packing.

"The officer was very courteous and polite," Sunday School teacher Terry Aikin told the Post-Gazette, "and asked us if we had a permit. When we said no, he asked us to leave. He said there had been complaints from business people."

As Mayor Tom Murphy and other officials told local news media, such efforts to help the homeless go against everything the city is trying to do, to discourage the homeless from staying outside.

But, as Aikin's husband Blaine, who teaches the class with her pointed out on CTV's "His Place", "We didn't create the problem. We were trying to address it." He said the group later learned that there really was no permit to obtain, so after obeying police, the group left Market Square and went to give their supplies to people gathered at a South Side shelter. The remaining supplies were donated to the Salvation Army.

"We were pretty upset," said the Aikens' son Ryan, 13, one of the students who was participating in the event for the first time.

"All the kids were pretty mad about it," he said on His Place.

The group received some unexpected backing from the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which told Murphy police violated the students' rights under the First and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

"The ACLU hopes and trusts that you will take appropriate measure to ensure that the events of this past Sunday will not recur," ACLU Executive Director Witold Walczak wrote to Murphy. "The city's parks must remain free and open to all people for use in any peaceable manner, especially when the activities are constitutionally protected." Walczak said it was a warning, and that no legal action was planned.

Mayor Murphy's response was: "Sue me!" He told the church members, "Let them help Pittsburgh's homeless in Mount Lebanon." Actually, it would be in Dormont - that's where Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church is located.

Murphy said if Harvey wanted to open his church to the homeless, the city would provide the transportation. Harvey called the mayor's comments "rather interesting," but did not reply further, calling Murphy "a man I respect very deeply."

Harvey said, "We really do not want to see this as a contest, however, between ourselves and the city of Pittsburgh's administration, or the mayor, and we're really just anxious to find out what we did wrong, and also how we could work together in the future to help our people engage in some direct social action."

Jenni Barrow, a tenth grade Mt. Lebanon student, has participated in this event since she was part of the seventh- and eighth-grade Sunday school class. Joining Blaine and Ryan on His Place, she was visibly still upset.

"Why can't we do this?" she questioned. "We weren't obstructing traffic or business." Barrow said having the opportunity to help the homeless has changed her life. "It makes you grateful for what you have," she said. "It's not another nameless face you see on the street," she said of the homeless people she has met, "It's a person with feelings. This is definitely something God would want anybody to do - even the mayor."

Ryan Aiken, a freckle faced youth with wavy hair and a quick smile added this admonition to Mayor Murphy: "Put yourself in their shoes," he challenged. "How would you feel?"

Homeless Activist Plans Celebration for the Poor

Vincent Eirene, a homeless advocate who runs a Catholic Worker hospitality house for the homeless, is planning a service in response to the city's "callous attitude" towards Church relief efforts to aid the homeless who fall through the system.

Eirene said, "It's every Christian's respon-

sibility to demonstrate God's love and concern for the poor, and Christ's command to clothe the naked and feed the naked. The city has no right to interfere with the practice of our faith. This is what Paul meant when he wrote that we must obey God rather than man.

"Mayor Murphy, or any civil authority, is in no position to judge Christians' expression of compassion towards what society has determined are the least, therefore the most expendable among us....that is the homeless."

The celebration is planned for noon on April 6, the Saturday before Easter and will include music by Thom and Cathy Hickling and other local musicians to be announced, prayer, and a call to action. The public is invited to participate and to bring blankets and bagged lunches for the homeless.

To get involved in the celebration or for more information call 231-2766 or e-mail notowar@telerama.com.

Subject: sp@m responds to Bob Darby's letter

From: andyrose@netcom.com (forwarded)

Date: Tue, 20 Feb 1996

This weekend I finally got to see the Menu with the letter from Bob Darby that mentions me in it. I would like to respond to this letter briefly. If Kieth could add this to the next Menu, I would appreciate it.

First, if I inaccurately portrayed Bob's position on matters as it seems I have, I am truly sorry. My only intention was to inform and to help us decide upon our options. My comments were based upon my understanding of what many people told me about the Thanksgiving eve meeting. I talked to Bob last time I was in Atlanta, and we seemed consoled with each other. Myself and many others often have a hard time understanding exactly what Bob is saying when he talks about his concerns.

The ones that Bob approves of in his letter. I don't think anybody has proposed torchlight marches or setting things on fire. I think most people's idea is to get information to tourists rather than scare them. The torchlight march in San Francisco and subsequent trashburning were not organized as part of the gathering, but was organized by another group. I don't think torches are safe for us to use in the security tension of Atlanta.

I hope that we can overcome misunderstandings and disagreements to have a successful gathering. I hope to move to Atlanta early in the summer to help put the show on. Also, I think that the Menu and Discussion Bulletin should all go to the same people so that we know more of what is being said.

Have Fun,
sp@m

Subject: Re: HOMELESS IN AMERICA

Date: Fri, 16

From: "C.T. BUTLER" <ctbutler@biddeford.com>

<HOMELESS IN AMERICA INTERVIEW

<How do people become homeless?

John, what do you mean by *homeless*? Simply, without a sheltered place to sleep or do you mean without a *home*; meaning, no place to call your own, no place to live with your family, no place to keep yourself, your family, and your personal belongings safe and secure? If you mean the former definition, the government will tell you there are about 2 - 3 million people homeless in the U.S. If you mean the latter, there are about 10 times that amount, probably more. (For the remainder of this questionnaire, I will be using the latter definition because it more accurately reflects the situation of people without a home; not the stereotypical street person who is commonly referred to as a *homeless* person.)

<What types of people become homeless?

Anyone, even you, can become a person without a home. In the past, I have been without a home for my family so we squatted in an abandon apartment. There are as many reasons and ways to become homeless as there are people who are homeless. Even formerly rich people, people with doctorates, formerly famous types, all types, if they fall upon hard times, can become homeless.

<How do homeless people stay warm during the winter?

The same way as everybody else does; lots of clothes, shelter from the weather, and fire for heat. If you do not have access to any building (with a furnace), then you find whatever shelter you can, such as subway tunnels, highway bridges, culverts, hollow trees, cardboard boxes, dumpsters, depending upon how desperate you are; anyplace you can find. For heat you burn things in a trash barrel or build a fire.

<How do homeless people find shelters?

I assume you mean shelters set up by some agency specifically for the homeless. On the positive side, the folks on the street have an excellent network of information sharing. It literally takes minutes for news to travel on the street as to where free food is available and/or shelter for the night is available. On the negative side, shelters are generally terrible. They are dangerous and dehumanizing. Men and women (and children) are usually separated, so forget your family life. Personal belongings are taken away for the night and often lost or stolen. Often one must stand in line for hours, be treated like cattle, including mandatory delicing showers, and given an uncomfortable cot or mat on the floor in a noisy, crowded, stuffy space where the lights

never go out for safety reasons.

<Are there enough shelters for all the homeless?

There maybe enough shelter bed space for 20% of the 2 -3 million official homeless. However, there is more than 15 million abandon or unoccupied housing units nationwide. If it were not for the profit motive, this country could house everyone in their own home.

<How would you describe most of the homeless people's mental condition?

Being homeless is so traumatizing, it is my opinion that homelessness is a mental illness. If you cannot sleep when you want or need to, cannot shower or clean yourself, cannot defecate or urinate when you want to, receive mail or phone calls, eat what and when you want, invite someone over, make love, keep valuable documents, all the things that come with having your own space; this will drive you crazy.

<What racial group is most likely to be found homeless, and why?

White people are most likely to be found homeless because white people are the most numerous in this country. However, as a percentage of their racial group, it will follow a definite pattern of the greater the general oppression, the larger the percentage. This is also true of gender (i.e., women are more oppressed so there is a higher percentage of women homeless), age (more children; 40% of all homeless (of either definition) are children!!) (an exception here is older folks who just die faster if they become homeless later in life), and class (which is what this question ought to have asked about; the obvious, that way more poor people are homeless than *formerly* rich people).

<Are there a lot of alcohol and drugs associated with homeless?

There is a lot of alcohol and drug abuse associated with U.S. society. Rich people and upper middle class people probably abuse drugs, on a percentage basis, more than anybody else because they can afford it and can get away with it. Poor people abuse drugs less only because they cannot afford it; in addition, they get caught much more often, fail to pay the fines so they go to jail, lose their job, (and sometimes their family), and when they get out, they are homeless. Drug abuse is a widespread problem. We, as a society, see more homeless people (of the first type) abusing drugs because they have no place to do it except out on the street.

<Is crime a big problem in the homeless world?

Again, crime is a big problem in the world. The problem for homeless types is that no one will protect them from abuse, violence, degradation. The police ignore cries for help from the homeless. Criminals prey on the homeless because they are defenseless. The

crimes perpetrated by homeless types are minor compared to white collar crimes, organized crimes, government sponsored crimes. But these crimes almost never get exposed whereas crimes by poor people, in general, fill the newspapers and the jails. Richer people commit more crimes because they rarely get caught; poorer people commit fewer crimes because they get caught. The official figures will tell you the opposite but is that not the idea.

<What percentage of people are homeless in the U.S.?

Depending upon what definition you use, the percentage is between 1 and 20.

<How does that percentage compare to the rest of the world?

It is completely inappropriate to compare the U.S., with 5% of the worlds population and 40% of the worlds resources, with any other country. But considering the 500 wealthiest people of the world own/control more than the bottom 50% of the worlds population should tell you something.

<What is our government doing to help the homeless?

Your government is doing a great job of creating homelessness; is that what you mean? The government is not there to give handouts; it is there to give away our natural and human resources to the transnational corporations which would exploit anybody and anything in their greedy grab at greater and greater profits.

<What causes a person to become homeless?

This is the only really relevant question of the whole lot. As I said before, there are as many reasons for one to become homeless as there are homeless people. The real question is: Why do we have a system/culture which allows for the exploitation of people (and the planet) as a normal and expected part of doing business? Capitalism, as it is practiced here, needs and therefore creates and sustains an underclass of expendable people as a means to exploit all of us (read *the workers*) by the threat of poverty if we do not play by somebodies (read *the rich*) rules. If everyone had their basic needs met, then no one would work at an exploitive, low pay, boring, dangerous, dehumanizing job. However, if there are 10, or, nowadays, 100 people waiting for your job if you should be fired because you demand fair treatment, safe working conditions, a living wage; who will demand these things. Is this not exactly what is happening today right here in the good old U.S. of A.

<How do homeless people get back on their feet?

They stand up, organize, educate, and take direct action. Personal empowerment is the single most important aspect of reversing the slide down.

<What happens to homeless people when shelters are full?

Most homeless types do not even try to get into shelters so for them this is a mute question. For those that do try, but get turned away, they sleep on a park bench, in a doorway or under a bush, or they get busted so they sleep in the cell or so drunk they hurt themselves, and because hospitals will not longer treat them, they bleed to death in some alley.

Subject: Syracuse FNB Protests Newt

Date: Wed, 21 Feb 1996
From: XraverhardcoreriotbobX
<rbswift@mailbox.syr.edu>

Here you go! This is a little late, but, it is from the Syracuse FNB Brian dominick wrote it up and asked me to forward it to the list....

SYRACUSE FOOD NOT BOMBS' FIRST SERVING FEBRUARY 19, 1996

Syracuse FNB served bagels, bread, hot tea and peanuts (yeah, peanuts — someone gave us a ton at the last minute) at a coalition protest of a visit by Newt Gingrich. Several hundred activists from 20-40 organizations were there, and we got rid of maybe 8 gallons of tea, many dozen bagels and a shitload of bread. It was a great opportunity, because Newt was inside eating a luncheon which was \$250/plate — so it was pretty easy for us to expose the contradictions of capital and government.

Our presence was much appreciated by everyone except the labor unions. The local AFL-CIO representative was trying to hog the show in the name of labor and, at an earlier meeting, called us a "special interest group" with "no right to be present." He seemed to think we were promoting vegetarianism, which is so obvious from the name of our group, Veggies Not Meat. Or is that somebody else. Where he got the idea that we are not totally supportive of labor is beyond us, but there was some tension.

Despite all that, we had a great time. Our connections with food sources are still weak, but we should be ready to do regular hot servings within the next month. So, look forward to more news from us as we get better established. Our donation cup brought in \$16 plus change, so we're all gonna buy new cars!

The demo was kinda liberal, bogged down in rhetoric and name calling, but that can be fun sometimes. The Labor Council was serving soup and coffee, so that kept a lot of people from our table — but we didn't really have any hot food, so that was cool. (The people serving at the LC table were actually dressed as Washington and Lincoln — I have no idea what that was supposed to symbolize.)

There was some creative street theatre (people dressed as bureaucrats ran around picking pockets, and then people dressed as keystone cops pretended to beat the victims of thievery into submission — very funny stuff, and a good idea) There was a diverse representation of organizational interests, which was good to see. Not as big of a turnout as we'd hoped (we thought maybe a thousand), but all-in-all pretty cool.

About 50 activists followed Newt up to Syracuse University, where Newt was giving a speech. Despite efforts by me and others (not as FNB — our serving was long over, mind you), we couldn't quite elicit the support necessary to storm the building which a mere 7 cops were keeping us out of. So that's where it ended. Kind of a bummer, since all everyone did was stand outside chanting with no media or anything around. But that was Syracuse's Newt Gingrich experience. Hopefully it will be our last, but somehow I doubt it.

take care all,
Brian @. Dominick badomnic@lbbs.org
Syracuse Food Not Bombs EWAY Anarchist Affinity Group Pet Roach Press

Subject: Houston FNB com- min to Atlanta

Date: Thu, 22 Feb 1996
From: James Recknagel <mystic@neosoft.com>

Hey ya'll in Atlanta.

Nicky here (doing time in Houston) A couple of us are planing to come to Atlanta to help organize for the gathering, and needed to know some of the details. IE where can we sleep, what needs to be done ect...Screech and I are planning to come to Atlanta in mid June, we dont know how were gonna get there yet, but we will be there!! Also, I know there is going to be atleast five others from the local FNB group will be coming shortly there after.

We also need to know, if there are any FNB(ers) who will have space for a few of us on the trip to Chicago, and for me to San Diego (Eta in San Francisco is after the Republican Convention). Which brings me to the folks in the Bay, Im gonna need a place to stay when I get home, any Ideas?

love and big sloppy kisses
Nicky SF fnb/IWW

Subject: Re: HOMELESS IN AMERICA

Date: 22 Feb 1996
From: Dan Check <73324.1617@compuserve.com>

>> On the negative side, shelters are generally terrible. <<

One of the horror stories I've heard about the shelters in NYC is that people, in addition to being beaten, stolen from, etc., are also

raped.

What I don't understand here is that you seem to see the homeless as a community (they have a good information network). In that sense, they seem to be looking out for each other. So what makes shelter life so inhumane?

>> *However, there is more than 15 million abandoned or unoccupied housing units nationwide. If it were not for the profit motive, this country could house everyone in their own home. <<*

Just a comment... it seems to me that a lot of these units would be in places like Flint, Mi., where there are no real job opportunities, so, while these people would have houses, they would not necessarily have any source of income. Still, I wholeheartedly agree with you that the current system of capitalism in which people don't care much about each other (an attitude which has, IMO, been strengthened by governmental paternalism), has been a dismal failure.

>> *There is a lot of alcohol and drug abuse associated with U.S. society. Rich people and upper middle class people probably abuse drugs, on a percentage basis, more than anybody else because they can afford it and can get away with it. <<*

Not only that, but they also stay away from the extremely addictive drugs (cigarettes and crack, to name two). These highly addictive drugs seem to be more prevalent in poorer communities due to the fact that they are cheap. I wrote a paper on the War on Drugs under Bush — if you want to read it, it's at <http://turnpike.net/~jnr/bushwar.htm> I even footnoted the online version.

Dan Check

Subject: Newt helps create Food Not Bombs!

From: ebfnb@burn.ucsd.edu (East Bay Food Not Bombs)
Date: Fri, 23 Feb 1996

Brian,

Thanks for the update on Syracuse FNB. You should know that Fresno, California, last month had its first serving at a protest of Newt Gingrich also! Maybe we should thank him. He helped start two FNBs now! Hahahaha!!!

So can you tell us what FNB information is on lbbs? I take it that's Michael Albert's/Z Magazine's bulletin board? We'd be interested to know if they have or want any fnb information.

Keep us informed here on fnb-l about Syracuse.

Take care,
Emanuel, East Bay Food Not Bombs
The Long Haul Infoshop (in Berkeley)

Subject: torchlight marches- don't knock 'em til you try

em.

From: emmanuel@burn.ucsd.edu
Date: Fri, 23 Feb 1996

Hello sp@m, Bob Darby and others,

I just wanted to mention, as someone who was arrested on the torchlight march in S.F. for Mumia, that it was completely non-violent. I respect your concerns that torches increase the tensions between protesters and police, and that it may therefore not be something we want to do in Atlanta this Summer. However, I am concerned with a few references in your and Bob's letters that seem to imply that the Mumia March was somehow violent. In fact, it wasn't.

That 279 of us were arrested is a testament to the violence and repression of the SFPD, not the violence of the protesters. Keep in mind that everyone's charges were dropped, and that many of us are in the process of suing the SFPD for illegally arresting us. We'll be going to court hopefully before the Atlanta gathering.

It is true that the march was not organized by Food Not Bombs, but why rush to disassociate yourself from it? I for one am proud to have carried a torch and peacefully marched in support of Mumia, and would support a full-on Food Not Bombs endorsement of the march AND the nonviolent tactics that were used.

Nobody was violent as far as I am concerned. Hell, setting trash on fire in a metal dumpster in the middle of the street isn't even legally arson. I have been on lots of protests where things ranging from an american flag to an effigy of Pete Wilson were burned. These are not violent acts. They are theatrical, add to the excitement, and attract attention (something all protests are trying to do). My worst criticism of whoever it was that set the dumpster's trash on fire was that they (probably) didn't check to see if there was any toxic or environmentally damaging substances inside of it.

Except for when the cops corralled us onto a side street and arrested us, the march was a lot of fun. The only tactical errors I think were made were when some people panicked and ran ... right into the police's trap.

Anyway, I respect your concerns. If people don't want to have torchlight marches in Atlanta, that's fine with me. But let's not believe the police lies and media propaganda around the Mumia march. Many of us are going to court over this, trying to prevent this type of police repression against nonviolent demonstrators in the future. If we let them convince us of their own excuses and rationalizations, if we start to internalize their projections of us as violent trouble-makers, then we lose right from the start.

In struggle,

Emanuel East Bay Food Not Bombs
emmanuel@burn.ucsd.edu

Subject: Re: torchlight marches-don't knock 'em til you try em.

Date: Fri, 23 Feb 1996
From: "Aron \"Pie\" Kay" <pieman@ns.calyx.com>

Perhaps a mass feed-in at the conventions will get their goats. fnb should hand out white bread to the delegates at the Demokrat and Republikkan convulsions awith the label: BREAD FOR THE BALONEY INSIDE. EVERYONE ELSE GETS A GOOD VEGGIE MEAL.

Subject: Re: Newt helps create FNB

Date: Fri, 23 Feb 1996
From: badomnic@lbbs.org (Brian @. Dominick)

Thanks to FNB-L, I was aware of the Fresno serving and passed the information on to our group. So, yeah, we were aware of our context going into it. I should have contacted someone from Fresno directly beforehand, but I lost the post about it and thus the address — let's call it a techno-tactical error.

But congratulations to both groups! I didn't know that had been Fresno's first serving.

There is lots of discussion of FNB on LBBS (Left on Line Bulletin Board System), especially in the Activism and Anarchy forums. There are at least two of us online from FNB groups. We would love to have more FNbers join in the discussions. For more information, visit the LBBS/Z Magazine web pages. Or write sysop@lbbs.org. It costs a little bit, but telnetters will have easy access, and the account offers a lot more than just the forums. Women are especially encouraged, as are people of color and young people.

I'm going to have an email discussion with Noam (he's easily accessible through LBBS) about FNB. I've already discussed the US anarchist "community" more generally, and he has some good insights. It's interesting to see what he has to say about the young generation of rads in Amerika. So, I'll be posting that soon, in case anyone is interested.

Solidarity, Brian @. Dominick
badomnic@lbbs.org

Subject: Re: torchlight marches-don't knock 'em til you try em.

Date: Sun, 25 Feb 1996
From: Christopher White <cwhite@warren-wilson.edu>

Hey,

Hi, this is sp@m. I was also arrested at the Mumia march and agree with everything Emmanuel says in this letter. I would like to clarify what Emanuel is responding to.

I also had a lot of fun at that march and

believe it was carried out in a good and correct fashion. The arrests were ridiculous and unpredicted. I don't think it's a good idea to have one in Atlanta, because of the presence of armed federal troops there to stop whatever they deem to be "terrorism." My disassociation of the march from the FNB gathering was intended to calm Bob's concerns over organizing something that he doesn't approve of. I also want to point out that people have total control over what actions they decide to do in Atlanta, as they do always.

I think it's good to point out that pacifism is not passive. I hope to participate in other actions like the Mumia March in the future. Thanks sp@m

Subject: Calgary

Date: Mon, 26 Feb 1996

From: Little Wimp Boy <hughb@nucleus.com>

Hello all,

FNB in Calgary is well on it's way. We will start serving on March 31 beside City Hall. The first benefit is going to be a huge show on March 23rd. We will also be passing out literature and maybe food at a local People Before Profit rally on March 9th. Just for info! Thanx

Hugh

Subject: Fresno hosts California Regional Gathering: March 30-31

From: ebfnb@burn.ucsd.edu (East Bay Food Not Bombs)

Date: Tue, 27 Feb 1996

On Saturday and Sunday, March 30th and 31st, Fresno Food Not Bombs is hosting a California Regional gathering for FNB groups to come together and celebrate our growing movement for social justice, human rights, and free food!

This gathering has been consensed upon by the weekly Fresno group, and they are doing an excellent job at planning it. This impetus came during the disorganized FNB gathering in the Easy Bay (no fault of East Bayers who had no knowledge of the gathering until the week before it was supposed to happen) a few weeks ago. Audrey and Tonce from Fresno FNB were there and proposed that they ask their group to host a REAL fnb gathering. They were really excited about it and relayed how Fresno has just started their servings after doing food deliveries for about six months.

They are serving over 200 people every Saturday, lots of families, migrant farm-workers and their kids. They are getting upwards of 45 people at their meetings and have an overflow of energy. They thought hosting a gathering would be a GREAT thing for them to do.

And now they ARE doing it!

The purpose of the gathering is to help build a stronger network of Food Not Bombs groups in California, and to have fun! The

proposed agenda includes items like ...

- 1) Mutual Aid in the even of police repression in one city.
- 2) Building stronger communication between groups like if and how to use:
 - A) The internet
 - B) Mass mailings
 - C) The Menu
 - D) 800 numbers
 - E) etc.
- 3) the Atlanta gathering like:
 - A) How are we all going to get there
 - B) What are we going to do there like:
 - 1) Have rowdy torch-light marches :-)
 - 2) Mass feed-ins
 - 3) etc.
 - C) Are we going to plan another gathering for 1997 while in Atlanta?
 - D) etc.
- 4) Reports from groups
- 5) Etc.

Also planned is a presentation on police pepper-spray from Berkeley COPWATCH, a punk show Saturday night with the band NAKED AGGRESSION, free food of course, workshops, Juggling, fire-eating, etc.

Fresno will be able to house people starting on Friday Night the 29th! They are looking for a warehouse type space or some large hall where we all can crash together and stay up all night telling ghost stories and stuff.

They are going to be sending out a mailing soon (tomorrow) to all California FNB groups. Please take the time, if you are involved in a California FNB, to make copies of the flyer/ mailing and distribute it in your local area. Maybe even you can print out this message and take it to your meeting and give it to people in your group.

East Bay FNB (that's my group) are going to be planning transportation for Northern California (that's us, San Francisco, Whittier, Sacramento, San Jose, Palo Alto — shit I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!) We may rent a bus with our Green Day money, or at least we'll help coordinate sharing rides. If you want to get a hold of the person in East Bay FNB doing this coordination, that's me, and you can email me here or call my voice mail at (510) 286-7942.

Fresno Food Not Bomb's number is: 209-488-6545.

Hope everyone in California FNB groups can make it! Let's support our valley comrades!

In struggle,

Emanuel, East Bay Food Not Bombs

Subject: Re: Calgary

Date: Wed, 28 Feb 1996

From: Keith McHenry <kmchenry@Catch22.COM>

Hi This is Keith requesting that if you know the date and year your group first shared food please post it on the fnb list. I am working on a food not bombs calendar and I would love to add the starting date of each group as part of the so-called trivia thanks. love, keith

Subject: Fresno Gathering!

From: ebfnb@burn.ucsd.edu (East Bay Food Not Bombs)

Date: Fri, 1 Mar 1996

Hi all,

This is the text verbatim from Fresno's California Regional Gathering Flier:

Come to a ...

FOOD NOT BOMBS California Gathering

Hosted by Fresno Food Not Bombs - March 30th & 31st - Saturday & Sunday (in Fresno of course)

Starts 10:00am

4609 E. Illinois St. at Maple

We can offer housing for people starting Friday night.

Coming North or South on highway 99 take the Belmont Exit going East. Turn South (right) on Maple and it's just six blocks on the left corner: Sierra Vista, red brick building.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:

- * Intergroup Communications
- * The Atlanta FNB Gathering
- * Chapter Reports
- * Mutual Aid in the Event of Police Repression

ALSO:

- * Meet other Food Not Bombers from around the State!
- * Free Food during the entire gathering from Fresno FNB!
- * Saturday meal will be served in solidarity by "Lawyers with Ladels"
- * Punk band Naked Aggression performs Saturday Night!
- * Presentation on Berkeley COPWATCH's Campaign to ban the Police use of Pepper Spray (recently used on Fresno High School students).
- * Spontaneous workshops, juggling, fire-eating and more!

More Reasons to Come to Fresno

Fresno Food Not Bombs began in the Summer of 1995 by distributing food to soup kitchens, shelters, and other free food programs. We began serving hot soup on January 11, 1996 at a protest against Newt Gingrich during a Republican fund-raiser. At that point a diverse group of volunteers and supporters grew rapidly. Now we serve as many as 150 people every Saturday in

Roeding Park.

Despite these positive developments, Fascism in Fresno and the reactionary forces of the right-wing are growing rapidly. Fresno police gang "experts" claim there are thousands of gang members in Fresno, none of whom are white, despite documented Klan, neo-nazi and skinhead groups active in the area. As recently as February 25, 1996 an anti-Semitic, white-supremacist group calling itself the Christian Separatist Church, joined by the Imperial Wizard of the American Knights of the Klan, organized a week-long protest against the Anne Frank exhibit denying the existence of the Holocaust. On February 10, the Klan burned a 30-foot cross in Modesto.

Fresno police "anti-gang" squads routinely detain youth who "look like" gang members. They take pictures and get personal information from the youth whose names and photos are permanently enshrined in a police "gang book." Information about juvenile detentions is routinely shared with schools and housing authorities.

On Friday, October 20th, 1995, Fresno police used pepper-spray on high school students allegedly to break up a fight. First hand reports indicated that police pepper sprayed students even though there was one officer present for every student present. Officers continued to spray students after the fight ended to force them to disperse. Individuals simply waiting at a nearby bus-stop were also sprayed.

Fresno County Supervisors recently issued a set of proposals that include expanding boot camp-style child prisons by 180 beds, blending jail-food into a tasteless "jail biscuit" to be used as punishment, rotating 12-hour sleeping shifts at juvenile hall that would allow each bed to be used by two inmates.

The current political climate in Fresno is exemplified by local resident Mike Reynolds who authored the "three strikes" proposition 184. He recently launched another draconian "war-on-crime" initiative called "10-20-Life" which toughens penalties for individuals convicted of crimes while carrying or using a gun.

Fresno Food Not Bombs is responding to these issues and we are committed to addressing the issue of hunger through our work. In the San Joaquin Valley, where most of the food consumed in North America is grown, a recent study reveals that 65,000 valley residents go to bed hungry each night. We welcome your ideas as we offer you hospitality and encouragement in your similar work.

"Carpool" contact person for Northern California is Emanuel with East Bay Food Not Bombs. Call him at (510) 286-7942

Subject: Another Mass Arrest in San Francisco!

From: rpwt1@axe.humboldt.edu (Robin Walker)

Date: Mon, 4 Mar 1996

Around 6:00pm this evening (March 3, 1996) approximately 140 people were arrested in San Francisco during a peaceful march protesting police violence and commemorating the 5-year anniversary of the Rodney King Beating.

The police told the non-violent protesters to get out of the streets and onto the sidewalk to avoid arrests. However, the group was so large, that such an action would prove virtually impossible. So, the march continued on, with the marchers followed by about a dozen cops on motorcycles. The march remained peaceful and non-confrontational until the group turned off Market Street onto 6th. At that point, police told protesters that, unless they moved onto the sidewalk, they would be arrested. So, the mass of marchers moved swiftly onto the sidewalk. It was at this point when police in riot gear surrounded the group on all sides, refusing to let anyone out. Then, all of the trapped protesters were arrested on charges of "failure to obey a peace officer."

The arrestees were taken to the police station on Bryant Street (ironically, the intended final destination of the march) where they were booked and released within a few hours. At the time of this writing, I know of at least one protester who remains in jail.

Although the arrests put a damper on the protest (to say the least), it definitely has fanned quite a few flames tonight, as a lot of solidarity between different people and groups was achieved. Members of Food Not Bombs, Copwatch, Police Watch, the International Socialist Organization, and the Revolutionary Communist Party, among other groups were arrested. Also, Cornelius Hall, father of Gerold Hall, a young man who was killed by BART police in Hayward in 1992, was also in attendance at the great party we all had at the jail.

I'll update you on more tomorrow... Robin Helga

Subject: Re: Another Mass Arrest in San Francisco!

Date: Mon, 4 Mar 1996

From: Aron -Pieman- Kay <pieman@ns.calyx.com>

You all have my support in this march against pigotry.

Subject: Police Violence Protest Arrested in SF

Date: Mon, 4 Mar 1996

From: Keith McHenry <kmchenry@Catch22.COM>

SPREAD THE NEWS

Police Repression Continues in San Francisco even with new mayor and police chief. San Francisco Police arrest protest against Police Violence stopping 200 people from marching to the San Francisco Police Headquarters. San Francisco Police arrested 130 people marching in protest to the epi-

demic of police violence on the 5th anniversary of the video taped beating of Rodney King this past Sunday, March 3, 1996. Riot police rushed across 6th Street at Howard as a police sound truck ordered everyone off the street. Even though most people did run to the sidewalk the police surrounded the protesters and arrested them for failing to obey a police order. A coalition of police accountability groups including AYUDA, Action for Police Accountability, BACON, Copwatch, Food Not Bombs, N-COPA and SF National Lawyers Guild organized the protest to mark National Police Accountability Week. Activist in communities all across the United States marked this day with teach-ins and protests. Another protest and speak out is called for Wednesday, March 6, 1996 at 5 PM before the Police Commission meeting at 850 Bryant Street in San Francisco. Call Copwatch at 510-548-0425 or Food Not Bombs at 1-800-884-1136 for more information.

Subject: more on the police violence protest in sf

Date: Fri, 8 Mar 1996

From: Keith McHenry <kmchenry@Catch22.COM>

Protests against Police Violence are effective.

Its time for the police to stop violating the rights of the people of San Francisco. We have the right to share free food in protest to war and poverty. We have the right march down the street against police violence. We have the right to be free from police violence. The new Mayor so far has no comment about the mass arrests on Sunday, March 3, 1996.

In San Francisco on Sunday, March 3, 1996 over 130 people were arrested as they marched to police headquarters in a protest against police violence. Because the activists were stopped on Sunday they continued the Protest Against the Epidemic of Police Violence at the San Francisco Police Headquarters on Wednesday, March 6, 1996 before the regular Police Commission meeting. Over 50 people attended the speak-out on the steps of 850 Bryant Street. After the speak-out many of the protesters went upstairs to the Police Commission meeting. Deputy Chief Dick Holder claimed that only six people went onto the sidewalk when the police sound truck ordered the peaceful protesters off the street. This was not true because almost everyone rushed to the sidewalk when they heard the announcement and saw a line of riot police rush across 6th Street. The first person to speak was a relative of Arron Williams. She described watching her nephew be beaten and kicked to death out side her house on Baker Street in San Francisco. I see the cops who killed Arron Williams all the time at the donut shop across the street from my house. The FBI had just announced that the police did not violate Mr. Williams civil rights when 12 officers kicked

him in the head and pepper sprayed him to death while hog-tied. The FBI made their announcement on March 6th and Police Commissioner John Kecker indicated during one of Arron Williams' relative's testimony that the announcement was made because of concern for the police violence protests. It is clear that the San Francisco Police are concerned about the political pressure generated by our protests.

A San Francisco Assistant District Attorney approached me after the protest and said that he wanted to meet with us so that they end all these arrests. He asked if District Attorney Hallinan had talked to Food Not Bombs about the permits.

Earlier that day when I was attempting to get a sound permit for the speak-out I spoke to the Chief of Police Fred Lau who also wanted to hold a meeting to work out the rules for protesting so the arrests would end. Chief Lau is in fact an honest and reasonable police official but negotiations with the police are not as easy as it might at first seem, even with Chief Lau as head of the Department. For instance who has the right to negotiate for an activist community and it seems to me that the real issue is how do we change the community so everyone has food, clothing, health care, dignified work, free time and freedom from corporate domination and environmental destruction etc. At this time Deputy Chief Holder, better known as Dick Holder is planning to meet with John Crew of the ACLU and Rachel Letterman with the National Lawyers Guild. According to Chief Lau, Dick Holder will also lead a refresher training course on crowd control. Mr. Holder is the last person on Earth who should be training any one on crowd control as he is the person who ordered most of the mass arrests including the many civil cases that the city has had to settle out of court on. At this point it seems to me that the activist community should start to hold meetings on how we intend to respond to these so called negotiations. Generally we should continue to plan protests and carry them out and see how the city and the police respond. The good news is that a broad coalition is emerging in the Bay Area and it is serious about radical change.

Subject: more on the police violence protest in sf

Date: Fri, 08 Mar 1996

From: Andy Rose <arose@macromedia.com>

Thanks Keith for this excellent writeup on the goings on in SF. It's helpful to know what's going on.

Keith asks: "how do we change the community so everyone has food, clothing, health care, dignified work, free time and freedom from corporate domination and environmental destruction etc?"

It may be difficult for Holder or Lau to answer these questions - given that it's not their focus and they have much more experi-

ence in control and repression than in caring for the community. Since many police may have once thought that community service is what being a cop is about there maybe a glimmer of hope, however slight.

It may be more productive to frame the agreements between the radical activists and the police in terms of what both sides want and can provide. It is the corporate capitalist domination which is being protested (the alternative is a society based on generosity and compassion), and currently we are tangentially (although importantly) protesting police violence. This may please the corporate dominators - who see this as distracting you from what you are after - a state where we are free to share and contribute to each others lives without intervention.

It's awesome that there is a coalition of people who can see how our issues interrelate. Certainly an important tool for the dominators is division. This keeps us apart and prevents us from realizing our common goals and common generosity. We end up still wanting to help, but only 'our kind'. My great uncle Walter Steinberg said "it's OK to give money away, as long as you give it to the right people" - his being a refugee from Hitler's Germany not withstanding.

One thing the police are clearly doing is perpetuating the terrible curse of white supremacy which Cornel West says is 'inherited by all of us', black, asian, latin, native, white, etc. The imbalance of cocaine sentencing which favors the rich and white, and the constant harassment of blacks by police (of any color) for open container, loitering, possession of small amounts of pot, etc. are examples of this.

This policy divides whites and nonwhites falsely, manipulating whites into false conflict models and allying them with the dominators. This may have had a lot more value in the past when it was clear that many dominators were white - but the success of a few people of color and the diminishing majority of whites is blunting the model and we now see what is really going on - class war.

The police are beating up and arresting poor people - exposing the face of a selfish society, one that relies on fear to control folks and keep us working for the dominators. It is the dominators fear of the realities of existence, hunger, loneliness, exposure to weather (from which they have long been distant) and their attraction to the shiny, glittering gold of their dreams which drives this model. This is something we all share in - we all can triumph over attraction, desire, jealousy, anger, and hatred, and we must.

So what of... "how do we change the community so everyone has food, clothing, health care, dignified work, free time and freedom from corporate domination and environmental destruction etc?" and the police?

We need more from Holder than permission to protest and serve food. We as a com-

munity need the police to serve the community rather than the powers. If they are to be useful to us they need to be on hand to help and heal. If they are to remain controllers and power freaks this won't happen. We need our people out of jail - whole, with the time spent in to heal and learn - about life and love - not about crime and hate. We don't need jacking up, we don't need to be in fear when possessing medicines (herbs, fungi). We need teachers to educate, not police and jailors to punish. And those disabled or crippled by the machine and the insanity need care.

The police need to turn toward the idle (rich and poor) - all people need all opportunity to find whatever strength they are born with - and we need faith that all people are of value. Idlers and malingerers may have value (perhaps unseen). Those who gossip, waste, and indulge in pleasure without concern for the people are the criminals. Those who abuse and destroy our people and our land and our air and water, and take our freedoms and liberty to further their own ends are the criminals.

-a

Subject: Afterwords [Chicago Conference]

From: Willerer Greg <ugwiller@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu>

Date: Fri, 8 Mar 1996

This is the 1st of a 5 part post that summarizes a recent conference here in Chicago that dealt with organizing Active Resistance, a counter-convention to the DNC, and also the newly hatched Network of Anarchist Collectives.

<Part 1 of 5>

AFTERWORDS

Documents From the recent More Fun Than Santa Conference in Chicago.

Over the holidays, the Autonomous Zone hosted a successful gathering of over one hundred activists and anarchists to discuss our plans for ACTIVE RESISTANCE and the NETWORK OF ANARCHIST COLLECTIVES (NAC). The following pieces are the outcomes of this gathering: summaries, project plans & timelines, comments, issues raised, etc. This is the "net" version of the booklet we snailmailed to various individuals and collectives.

Because various meetings & decisions have occurred since the Afterwords booklet was printed, this electronic version contains updated information. Take note!

This e-booklet has been broken down into 5 parts: 1) This introduction, the cover letters (introducing Active Resistance & NAC), and the Table of Contents. 2) Active Resistance plans, discussions, decisions, etc. 3) Network of Anarchist Collectives projects, decisions, and an updated address list of infoshops & collectives. 4) Pamphlet Archive inventory. 5) Various articles regarding

Security.

(In case you aren't familiar with these projects, here's some introduction:)

ACTIVE RESISTANCE

Counter-Convention to the '96 Democratic National Convention

Friends, Comrades, Revolutionary-Family-Community, You Reading This!

Organizing a convention of our own, for radical communities of resistance to come together and create our collective visions, began last summer in Chicago. A core collective was developed and a name finally(!) selected: ACTIVE RESISTANCE. Flyers and leaflets were produced and mailed, and the first in a series of posters has just arrived from the printers. A gathering to plan this convention was held December 28-31 in Chicago. Maybe you were here.

This booklet is the follow-up to the More Fun Than Santa planning gathering. Committees have been formed to take on various aspects of the convention, and developing the Network of Anarchist Collectives is well under way. You are invited to participate on any of these committees—we all have a lot to do between now and August. There is a form so that you can be included in a newly created resource and skill-sharing directory. Pay close attention to the fund-raising plea!

The prospect of a convention to focus our efforts on creating sustainable connections and counter-institutions is exciting and challenging. We hope to inspire a number of collectives and existing networks to play a significant role in the program and agenda: take part in forums, offer workshops, invite speakers and special guests, schedule related activities (films, music, shows, etc), and especially to hold their own gatherings specifically to

connect our diverse constituencies.

Any assistance or feedback is welcome! Contact us!

NETWORK OF ANARCHIST COLLECTIVES

Dear Friends, Revolutionaries, Partners-In-Struggle, etc.

Inside the booklet accompanying this letter, you will find information regarding the recently formalized Network of Anarchist Collectives (NAC). This is a project that has many of us quite excited. As you will read, it is a network primarily intended to create a framework so that participating collectives can mutually support and aid each other, as well as work on joint projects. This support will come through increased communication, skill and resource sharing, travelling activists, a speakers bureau, and through the pages of our networking journal, (Dis)Connection. Read on for more info.

The emphasis on NAC is in facilitating collectives to support and sustain themselves and each other. Focus is on the grassroots—the collectives themselves—not on the network structure. In fact, there is very little network structure—no coordinating entities, no leadership, merely an agreement between collectives to cooperate and work together. Different types of collectives are involved, from infoshops to co-ops to affinity groups. "Politically", we are united in our commitment to anarchist principles of organization and to a strategy of Dual Power: creating counter-institutions that build a base of strength by meeting needs of everyday people and practicing non-authoritarian processes, and also sustaining a counter-power challenge to the capitalist, colonial rule of the

world today. Communication, mutual aid, accessibility, and autonomy with solidarity are our mainstays.

NAC has grown rapidly out of the informal network of infoshops and collectives, and has been based mostly out of the Midwest. We want to see it expand! So far, the groups involved include Trumbullplex, Autonomous Zone, Rainbow Bookstore Co-op, Hindenburg, Active Transformation, E-Way, Blackout Books, Arawak City, Toledo UnNamed, Wooden Shoe Books, Philly A-Space, and Antioch Info Terror. This is but a sampling of the collectives out there.

We want to see NAC expand. If your collective finds itself in general agreement with our principles, and want to participate in a collective mutual-aid structure, then let us know! Get in touch with these other collectives. Consider organizing or participating in a regional NAC gathering. Submit to (Dis)Connection. Get in touch. Get involved.

The Contact point for NAC is:
Autonomous Zone Infoshop 1573 N. Milwaukee, #420 Chicago, IL 60622 (312)278-0775, email: ugwiller@bgu.edu

Information sent to the contact point gets distributed to NAC bi-monthly or so by Jen Angel (Columbus) in the NAC Directory.

Subject: wilmington, nc

Date: Wed, 13 Mar 1996
From: sarah@wilmington.net (Sarah Herriage)

Food Not Bombs in Wilmington, NC will be having it's first feeding Sunday, April 7, at the park at the corner of Front and Red Cross (across from the Coastline Convention Center). We'll be serving lunch from around 12 to 1 for those that want to join us!

The internet, as the first ever *interactive* mass media, is a useful tool for grassroots community organizing. The ability to send out news and information to millions of people used to be the privilege of only the wealthiest and most powerful media entities. Today radical community activists and organizations can disseminate news and information to nearly anyone who chooses to retrieve it. This is a major historical change and holds great potential for the liberation of information and the breakdown of the corporate propaganda machine.

However, access to the internet today still remains largely in the hands of a relatively privileged sector of society, and while prices of used computers are dropping to levels below most television sets, it may be quite some time, if ever, before access (which includes not just price, but knowledge and education as well) is available to everyone. We therefore run the risk of developing a kind of techno-privileged elite within Food Not Bombs and/or the movement as a whole. This printed version of fnb-l is one effort to prevent this. By bringing important information and dialogue from the internet to those who do not have access to it (or who choose for their own valid reasons not to use it), we empower more people and thus become stronger and more decentralized.

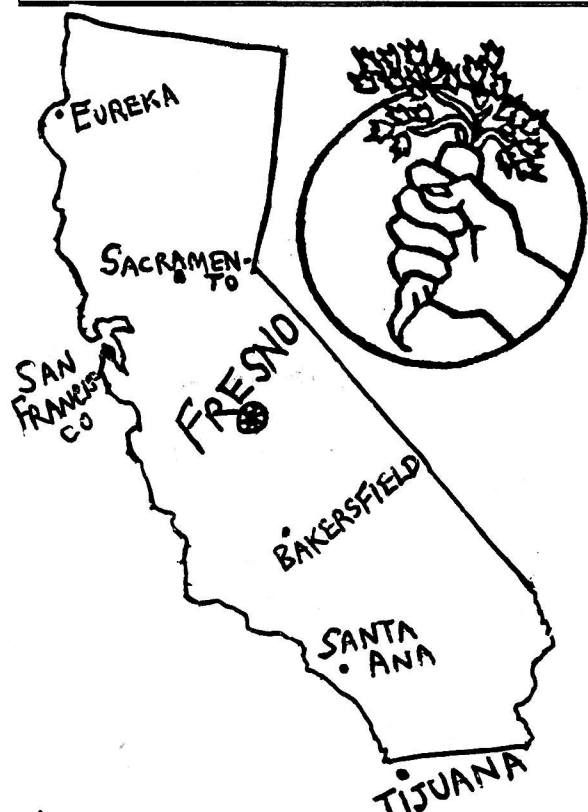
You can help in this effort by making your own copies of this print-out and sharing it with Food Not Bombs in your area. You can also help by subscribing to this printed version of fnb-l. It cost around \$100 to produce and mail out this first issue to all the Food Not Bombs groups in North America, and to keep doing this, we need some financial assistance. Subscribe by sending a few dollars to:

Email Project/East Bay Food Not Bombs, 3124 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705.

Come to a . . .

FOOD NOT BOMBS

California Regional Gathering



Hosted by **Fresno**
Food Not Bombs
March 30th & 31st
Saturday & Sunday
(in Fresno of course)

Starts 10:00am
4609 E. Illinois St. at Maple
We can offer housing for
people starting Friday night.



Coming North or South on highway 99 take the Belmont Exit going East. Turn South (right) on Maple and it's just six blocks on the left corner: Sierra Vista, red brick building.

Proposed Agenda Items:

- Intergroup Communications • The Atlanta FNB Gathering
- Chapter Reports • Mutual Aid in the Event of Police Repression

Also:

- Meet other Food Not Bombers from around the State!
- Free Food during the entire gathering from Fresno FNB!
- Saturday meal will be served in solidarity by "Lawyers with Ladels"
 - Punk band **Naked Aggression** performs Saturday Night!
- Presentation on Berkeley COPWATCH's Campaign to ban the Police use of Pepper Spray (recently used on Fresno High School Students).
- Spontaneous workshops, juggling, fire-eating and more!

For General Information call Fresno FNB's voice mail at (209) 488-6545.

For directions and Housing call Marcus at (209) 485-4969. (Call ahead of time for Friday night housing.)

To propose a workshop, agenda item, or for other questions call Tonee at (209) 276-0101.